

BURNETT (S.M.)

INDEX
MEDICUS

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MATION OF THE MASTOID

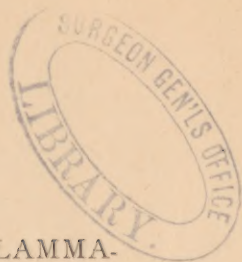
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SWAN M. BURNETT

WASHINGTON, D. C.



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A CASE OF PRIMARY EXTERNAL INFLAMMATION OF THE MASTOID.

ACCORDING to Knapp, Turnbull and others, this form of mastoid inflammation, first described by Voltolini, seems to be uncommon, and for this reason I am induced to report the following case of that character which fell under my observation some years ago.

Mr. P. F., a carpenter, 28 years of age, after an exposure to cold, was seized with a pain back of the ear, accompanied with swelling. When I first saw him, the swelling was confined to the portion of the temporal bone at the rear, and slightly above the auricle.

It finally extended over the whole of the mastoid, and to the external meatus. There was no evidence of existing or previous disease of the auditory apparatus, and the *Mt*, on inspection, was found to be normal, and the hearing power good. It soon became evident that pus was forming, but all operative interference was refused, and treatment was limited to hot applications and anodynes.

In the course of ten or twelve days pus discharged from the external meatus, and it was discovered, when the swelling had sufficiently diminished to allow inspection, that it came from an opening just behind the cartilaginous portion of the external meatus from above. The pus had evidently burrowed backward along the cartilage, until it could find an exit through the less resistant integument. In the course of a week the discharge had ceased, and all manifestations of the trouble had disappeared. Up to the time of the discharge of pus, there was considerable febrile excitement.

